**Supporting information File S1**

**Statistical analysis of the differences between commonly implemented persister isolation protocols.**

As shown in Figure 1, we found strong differences between the results of three persister isolation protocols. Using the One-way ANOVA test with the statistical software Minitab 16, we analyzed the significance of the differences found. With a threshold p-value of 0.05 we found that the differences were significant for both the TH1269 (*hipA7*) and the MG1655 (WT) strain. For the *E. coli* DS1 strain, we found that the differences are not significant, as can be seen in the figure.

**Testing of the protocol in other strains**

We used the protocol on *P. fluorescens* and *S. aureus* and cultures in stationary phase We used 500l of the lysis solution for *S. aureus* and a full sweep of concentrations for *P. fluorescens*. We obtain a persistent fraction of2.03\*10-4 for *S. aureus*. For *P. fluorescens* we obtained a single plateau in the killing curves (Fig. S1). Our results suggest that there is only one type of persister cells in the tested strain of *P. fluorescens.*



**Figure S1. Persister cells isolation in *P. fluorescens*.** To test if our protocol was suitable at similar concentrations for using in different bacterial species we assessed it with a stationary culture of *P. fluorescens* using different working concentrations of our lysis solutions, as done previously for *E. coli*.